FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 AUGUST 1986

Egypt

Mubarak on Summit — No date has been set for his expected summit with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, President Husni Mubarak said, according to MENA, upon returning to Cairo from talks in Amman with King Husayn. Mubarak and Husayn discussed Arab issues, the Gulf war, and bilateral relations, Amman radio reported. However, Radio Monte Carlo claimed that the Palestine question and Jordan-PLO relations occupied the major part of the talks, and cited reports from informed sources that Mubarak wanted to coordinate stands with King Husayn on Mubarak's upcoming meeting with Peres.

Exercises Conclude — Joint U.S.-Egyptian maneuvers concluded successfully 28 August with a live fire exercise, MENA reported. Elsewhere, an unnamed Egyptian military source said that Egypt will not permit the use of its territory or facilities for an attack by the United States against Libya, KUNA reported, citing a Kuwait *Al-Qabas* article.

Libya

Speaking at a New York press conference reported by JANA, Libya's envoy to the United Nations reaffirmed his country's readiness to establish "normal relations" with the United States. Libya is prepared to solve all pending problems with the United States by peaceful means, he continued, but warned that the Libyan people remain ready to fight U.S. "terrorism." The envoy stressed the "good health" of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, referring to the Libyan leader's recent appearance at a pipe-manufacturing facility.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes raided Jazireh-ye Farsi, a Gulf island used as a Khark auxiliary port, according to a military communique aired by Voice of the Masses radio.

Asked in a Tehran radio interview about the aid Gulf states are providing Iraq, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsaniani said that Iran will tolerate such behavior as long as possible, but warned that Iran should not be pushed too far. The Air Force still has about 75 of its original 80 U.S. F-14 aircraft and enough missiles to fight another 10 years, he continued. Procurement of original and imitation equipment is proceeding through middlemen who deliver such goods "quite frequently," he said, while denying that even a single bullet had been bought from Israel. Meanwhile, the PRC categorically denied that it sold arms to Iran, according to a statement by the PRC Embassy in London cited by IRNA.

Iran

Answering listeners' questions on Tehran radio, the prime minister censured the "few" capitalists who are "amassing gold" during a time of war, referring to them as a class that is constantly hiding behind pious merchants.

Syria

Al-Asad, Soviet Official Confer — President Hafiz al-Asad received Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov, Damascus radio reported. The two discussed regional, international, and bilateral issues, the radio continued.

Ba'th Party on U.S., Libya — A statement by a Ba'th Party National Command source "strongly condemning" the "rabid campaign" of the United States against Libya was carried by Damascus radio. The statement reiterated that any aggression against Libya is regarded as an attack against the party and the Arab nation.

Lebanon

Upcoming Talks in Damascus — Syria invited Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Ministers Nabih Birri, Salim al-Huss, and Walid Junblatt to Damascus for talks on recent developments in Lebanon, Voice of Lebanon radio announced.

Security Developments — The Lebanese Army warned against further attacks on its checkpoint at Afqa, following an incident involving gunmen from a local family and the Amal Movement, Voice of Lebanon reported. Meanwhile, the UAE newspaper *Al-Ittihad claimed that Syria has noticeably reduced the number* of its forces in Lebanon, particularly in the north and in the Al-Biqa'. The daily cost of $1 million was cited for the reported reduction.

In Paris, a spokesman for the French prime minister denied allegations that France was planning to withdraw its troops from UNIFIL, AFP reported. However, the spokesman added that French authorities were forced to notice that clashes between rival Lebanese factions were becoming increasingly violent.

Palestinians

Informed Palestinian sources cited by the Dubayy newspaper *Al-Bayan alleged that Fatah dissident 'Atallah Muhammad* 'Atallah met the U.S. consul in Amman. 'Atallah submitted a memo calling for U.S. help in convincing Israel to accelerate the transfer of West Bank and Gaza municipalities to moderate Palestinians, the sources claimed.

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U.S. Urged To Agree With USSR on Moratorium

LD282232 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 28 Aug 86

["Statement by DRA Foreign Affairs Ministry on the decision of the Soviet leadership based on a unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions until 1 of January 1987" — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] 28 August 1986

The televised speech by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, which was delivered tothe Soviet Union on nationwide television on 18 of August, once again reflects the deep human and responsible feelings of the Soviet leadership for having a world without nuclear arms. Making a decision of extraordinary importance based on a unilateral moratorium of nuclear explosions by the Soviet Union embodies very important issues of existing policy for halting nuclear explosions and counts as a new, practical step in this direction. The Soviet Union has made this decision at a time when the world situation is very complicated and fearful. The international security of countries is threatened by the madness of the U.S. arms race, and by mountains of killer nuclear arms and their various types, along with the continuous explosions, testing, and modernization of these weapons by the Washington administration. [passage omitted]

The DRA, along with friends and progressive forces of the world, will defend consistently now and in the future, a policy of detente and nuclear disarmament; and on the basis of its foreign policy will prevent the activities of imperialist and reactionary forces who want to push mankind to the cliff of the arms race and nuclear catastrophe. The DRA raises its voice with all peace-loving mankind of the world and calls on the United States to sign an agreement in the high-level Soviet-American talks on halting nuclear explosions, and join the unilateral moratorium with the Soviet Union in this regard. [passage omitted]

All the efforts and peace initiatives of the Soviet Union for ensuring security and confidence in Asia and in the Pacific Ocean that Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev spoke about on 28 July in Vladivostok, including the return of six regiments from the limited Soviet military contingents from Afghanistan, all have a logical link with each other, and create a suitable political climate for the uniform order of international peace, removal of the sources of tension in various regions of the world, and a just, peaceful settlement of all issues.

The DRA once again sincerely reaffirms the principal policy for a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan and a normalisition of relations with Pakistan and Iran, which will result in the elimination of tension in this part of the world.

Foreign Minister Accuses U.S. of Obstructing Peace

LD281952 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 28 Aug 86

[Text] The United States creates obstacles all-round on the way to a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. DRA Minister of Foreign Affairs Minister Shah Muhammad Dost said in Harare, capital of Zimbabwe: Washington's experts bring pressure on Afghanistan's neighbors to destroy their relations with the DRA. Shah Muhammad Dost added in an interview with the *Daily Herald*, published in Zimbabwe: As a result of open intervention by the United States, and the support of that country for the counterrevolutionary elements who are carrying out terrorist activities against the DRA, our country's independence, freedom, and territorial integrity have been threatened. Immediately after the victory of the April 1978 revolution, the Afghan Army was not powerful enough to confront the dangers coming from abroad. Therefore, it demanded the assistance of the Soviet Union, a country with which Afghanistan has had traditional relations of good-neighborliness from the beginning of its independence.

The foreign minister said: We have said several times, in various speeches, that as soon as the danger against Afghanistan disappears there will be no reason for the Soviet forces to remain in Afghanistan. Recently, we agreed with our Soviet friends that six regiments of the USSR's limited military contingents will be returned from Afghanistan before the end of this year. This demonstrates the honesty of the Soviet Union and the DRA in connection with a political solution to the situation around Afghanistan. Steps have been taken in this regard. For example, another round of the Afghan-Pakistan talks was held in Geneva recently.

Shah Muhammad Dost said: But the United States prefers the Soviet military contingents to remain in Afghanistan. Washington wants to use this as a propaganda tool against the DRA and the Soviet Union.

Mujahidin Attack Soviet Air Base

LD282238 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2143 GMT 28 Aug 86

[Text] Islamabad, 28 Aug (SPA) — Last Saturday before dawn, Afghan mujahidin, in a rocket attack against a large Soviet air base in Kandahar airport in southeast Afghanistan, were able to destroy three Mirage (sic) Soviet military aircraft.

The Islamic *Afghan News Agency* said the mujahidin fired 100 rockets during the attack, which caused fires to break out in the base and the aircraft hangers.

The agency said the attack also killed and injured a number of Soviet soldiers at the base, and that transport aircraft were seen taking them to the capital, Kabul.

In another report by mujahidin sources in Islamabad, it was reported that on 12 August, a fierce battle took place between the Soviet forces and the mujahidin, during which hundreds of Soviet and Kabul soldiers were killed and four Soviet military aircraft were shot down.

The battle martyred 13 of the mujahidin and the injured of 25 others.

Keshtmand, Delegation Leaves for Nonaligned Summit
LD281639 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Aug 86

[Text] Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, left for Zimbabwe this morning at the head of a delegation to take part in the eighth session of the heads of states or of governments of the nonaligned countries to be held in Harare, capital of Zimbabwe.

At Kabul Airport Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand was seen off by Comrades Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of communications; Brigadier General Muhammad Rafi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; Major General Gholam Faruq Yaqubi, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of state security; Lieutenant General Nazar Muhammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Political bureau and minister of defense; deputy chairmen and members of the DRA Council of ministers; the president of the Supreme Court; the dean and a number of ambassadors of the friendly countries in Kabul.

The members of the Afghan delegation to the eighth session of the heads of states or of governments of the nonaligned countires are: Shah Muhammad Dost, DRA minister of foreign affairs; Daud Kawian, head of BAKHTAR; Sarwar Yuresh, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Farid Zarif, DRA permanent representative at the United Nations, and a number of other Afghan officials.

Spokesman on Zia Charges of Aiding Bhutto

BK281529 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1441 GMT 28 Aug 86

[Text] Responding to questions from the press regarding an allegation made by President Ziaul Haq that Miss Benazir Bhutto and Pakistan People's Party are receiving funds from India, the official spokesman stated that we had already expressed our dismay at this baseless allegation in a statement made by the official spokesman on 19th June 1986. The former minister of external affairs had earlier expressed our astonishment at a meeting of the Consultative Committee of Parliament on May 4, 1986 that a head of state should make such baseless allegations on mere assumptions.

PRC Establishing 'Permanent Presence' in Valley

BK290150 Hong Kong AFP in English 0138 GMT 29 Aug 86

[Text] Tezpur, India, Aug 29 (AFP) — Recent Chinese military activity in the strategic Sumdorong Chu valley on the disputed Sino-Indian border indicates Chinese plans for a permanent presence there, Indian strategists say.

India accused China earlier this month of military intrusion into its northeastern frontier state of Arunachal Pradesh, a charge that Beijing denied.

An Indian Army major who visited the border last week said he had seen "hectic activity," with Chinese troops widening mule tracks into motorable roads, and helicopters making as many as 30 sorties a day.

The major, who asked not to be identified, told *Agence France-Presse* in this neighbouring state of Assam that Indian strategists were convinced the Chinese were planning a permanent presence there.

The officer said the Chinese presence was a result of what he called a "lapse on the part of our soldiers."

Each year troops of the two countries try to make their presence felt in the area, but "this time we stayed away as the area was snowbound," he said.

Officials of the Arunachal Pradesh government said the federal government in New Delhi had summoned the chiefs of the subsidiary Intelligence Bureau of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh for talks about the alleged Chinese intrusion.

The Chinese Embassy in New Delhi refused to comment on the reports of troops building motorable roads.

But Chinese diplomats privately admit that their troops are there. Said one: "It is Chinese territory and it is but natural that we will be there."

Analysts said that the two neighbours, which fought a bitter border war in 1962 and have had an uneasy relationship since then, appeared to be heading for another period of strained relations.

China accused India on Saturday of military incursions into its territory.

"The Indian side crossed the line of actual control in some areas in an attempt to further nibble away at Chinese territory and create new areas of dispute," the official *People's Daily* newspaper said.

But on Monday an Indian official spokesman replied: "We categorically reject the allegations that Indian troops and aircraft have intruded into Chinese territory."

China claims some 90,000 square kilometres (36,000 square miles) of land on the Indian side of the McMahon Line, which India's British rulers established as the Sino-Indian frontier in 1914. India says it owns 38,000 square kilometres (14,600 square miles) of territory on the Chinese side.

Seven rounds of talks have failed to settle the border dispute.

Notorious Terrorists Arrested; Soldiers Attacked

BK290342 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Aug 86

[Text] In Punjab, one of the four terrorists responsible for killing 14 bus passengers near Mukteswar recently was arrested by the Faridkot police last night. He has been identified as (Ramong Singh.) A revolver used in the crime and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered from him.

The police have also apprehended another notorious terrorist Ajith Singh alias Jita of the Kohar gang. The gang had been responsible for a number of murders and looting in Gurdaspur District and surroundng areas. Police authorities in Jullundur say eight terrorists including Nirmal Singh, a proclaimed offender have also been arrested.

Meanwhile, four BSF [Border Security Force] jawans [soldiers] were injured when some terrorists fired at them at a check post on a bridge near Lohia in Jullundur District last night. The BSF jawans returned the fire but the terrorists managed to escape. A CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] check post was also attacked in Kabirpur village in Kapurthala District last night.

Recent Clashes, Casualties Reported

BK291115 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Aug 86

[Text] Security forces captured a member of the newly formed terrorist group, the Tamil People's Protection Party — TPPP — at (Malmunai) in Batticaloa on Tuesday [26 August]. The terrorist has been identified as (S. Sangra Pillai). Two other terrorists belonging to the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front were also arrested. Three terrorists were killed when government troops effectively repulsed a terrorist attack at (Thalawat) in Batticaloa yesterday. The terrorists had attacked a security forces' patrol, forcing the troops to return fire. Two civilians were slightly wounded in the cross fire. In another incident, a terrorist belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam was killed when the security forces repulsed an attack at Wanduramulla in Batticaloa on Wednesday.

LANKA PUWATH Reports on Separatist Attacks

BK291339 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in Engligh 1301 GMT 29 Aug 86

[Text] Colombo, Aug 29 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Thirteen incidents invloving separatist terrorists were reported today. They included the brutal murders of Joseph Sebastian and Arumugam Thiyagarajha whose bullet riddled bodies were found tied to lamp posts at Pumaikudah, Eravur in the Batticaloa District in eastern Sri Lanka, government sources told *Lanka Puwath*. They said the bodies were found on the night of August 27. A note found by the bodies of the two terrorist victims claiemd they were responsible for the killing of terrorists. Another report received by *Lanka Puwath* states that four policemen were wounded, two of them seriously, when terrorists exploded a landmine on a police foot partol yesterday near the Sinhala Maha Vidyalaya, Trincomalee in the eastern port of Trincomalee.

One terrorist was killed, while the other escaped when security forces opened fire after they disobeyed orders to halt while riding on a motorcycle at Paranddakillu, Vavuniya in northern Sri Lanka yesterday. Security forces captured a motorcycle and two hand grenades, government sources said.

At Jaffna town in northern Sri Lanka security forces on duty at the Duraippah Stadium heard sounds of digging and saw the suspicious movement of persons near the old municipality building and Muthiah Park. When a security forces patrol moved in to investigate they were attacked by terrorists who fired at them. The security forces returned the fire causing the terrorists to flee. Terrorist casualties were not known. The incident occurred at 2100 hours (local time) last night.

Meanwhile, at 1030 hours (local time) yesterday, a security forces patrol on reconnaisance to investigate whether terrorists were building bunkers in the same area in Jaffna town was engaged by terrorists who fled when the patrol opened up with their guns. Government sources told *Lanka Puwath* that armed terrorists in combat uniform robbed cash rs. 15,000, khaki coloured textiles, radio cassettes, and other articles valued at rs. 100,000, from the shop of M.L. Abdul Hameed at Potuvil, in the eastern province Amparai District.

Seven terrorists were captured when security forces detected a landmine containing 20 kilograms of explosives yesterday, at Lake Road, Pulliyanthivu in the island's Batticaloa District. Security forces also captured a 12 volt car battery, 225 yards of wire and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) literature.

Security forces detected another landmine, containing 60 kilograms of explosives at Neelavane, Kalawanchikudy in the Batticaloa District. They also captured two electronic detonators, one exploder, one metre of detonator cord, 150 metres of wire, and two pedal cycles. Government sources told *Lanka Puwath* that a third mine, a claymore, was detected by security forces yesterday on the Kandy - Jaffna road, near the 138th mile post. The mine was detonated by the security forces patrol.

In other incidents reported today, terrorists fired small arms and mortars at the Thondamanar Security forces camp on the night of August 27th, but inflicted no damage. Terrorists fired at troops providing protection to a navy boat, at Point Pedro, Jaffna yesterday. Security forces returned fire and destroyed 2 terrorist bunkers. Vehicle No 41 Sri 1029 belonging to Abdul Cader Niha Mohamed, a Muslim, was stopped yesterday at the 9th mile post by terrorists who robbed about rs. 50,000 from the possession of Cader Mohamed, at Thanuttu, Nedunkerni in the Malativu District in northern Sri Lanka. A security forces patrol spotted a group of terrorists in a nearby jungle, at Kumburupiddy, Trincomalee yesterday. When security forces opened fire the terrorists fled deeper into the jungle. A shot gun, one barrel of diesel, 2 immobilised tractors and LTTE literature were captured from the terrorists.

Separatists Blow Up Bridges, Disrupt Rail Service

BK291405 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1321 GMT 29 Aug 86

[Text] Colombo, Aug 29 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Separatist terrorists blasted two railway bridges this morning in northern Sri Lanka, sabotaging the resumption of train services from Colombo to Kilinochchi in the north. Government sources told *Lanka Puwath* that in response to repeated requests from the public in northern Sri Lanka the train service to Kilinochchi has resumed today. The first train left Maradana Railway Station today 29th August, 1986 at 0550 hours (local time) and was scheduled to reach Kilinochchi at 1200 hours (local time.

But the terrorists blasted two railway bridges this morning, one at 0930 hours (local time) at Tandikkulam, 2 miles north of Vavuniya and the other at 1045 hours (local time) between Vavuniya and Omanthai at the 159th railway mile post thus preventing the train from proceeding beyond Vavuniya.

This action of the terrorists is calculated to harass the general public in the north and cause great inconvenience to the large number of passengers who travelled in this train. However, the co-ordinating officer, Vavuniya, has made arrangements for the passengers who travelled in the train today and who are now stranded in Vavuniya to travel beyond Vavuniya by bus.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interviewed on War

LD282250 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1800 GMT 28 Aug 86

[Interview with Iranian Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by two unidentified correspondents of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran; date and place of interview not specified — recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage indistinct] [Question] In the name of Allah, the compassionate, the merciful. Today, the imposed war has reached one of its sensitive junctures. It is a subject of discussion by the political circles and the people of the area as a decisive factor in the region and in the world. In connection with the war, the foreign media and international forums and political quarters subservient to arrogance are leveling a series of accusations, and thereby raising a number of questions in the minds of the people of the region. [passage omitted] Here we would like to put our first question to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani: Since it is said that the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] considers Saddam as an infidel and the Iraqi regime as a Zionist regime, and deems the war against the Iraqi regime as a war against the Zionist regime of Iraq, we beg of him to be gracious enough to give us the reasons behind this.

[Answer] In the name of Allah, the compassionate, the merciful. Saddam, of course, is superficially a Muslim. [passage indistinct]

[Question] The other question, which is apposite in this connection, is that irrespective of the Saddam regime and the Ba'thist regime, which is existing with its special characteristics as you have kindly pointed out, the question is being raised by political quarters as to whether Muslims are being killed in this war and are incurring most of the losses; and why is the IRI [words indistinct] whereas the (?Iraqis) are normally suggesting peace and requesting Iran to respond to their call, but the IRI is continuing along its course?

[Answer] Of course, just as you have said, Muslims are currently bearing the losses of this war. This war has been imposed on us and we did not want to begin this war. So the war was started by the Iraqi Ba'th Party, and behind the scenes the great powers have been standing [words indistinct]. Therefore, we have not started the war. [passage omitted]

[Question] There is one problem which is stressed in international (?quarters) which says that it is not natural for Iran to be calling for the downfall of the head of a state of a country and saying that: We shall end the war when he falls. What is said is that nothing like this exists anywhere and if a war has come about, the parties should sit together, come together in an assembly, or otherwise see to this problem. Could you please expand on this point in order to clarify the minds of those who wonder about the situation?

[Answer] Sometimes there are individuals who come in the role of mediators, who also say the same thing. [Passage indistinct]. But there has as yet been no mediator who has come and said that: I do not accept that Saddam is the aggressor. That is, these international assemblies and those who talk to us behind closed doors — all of them agree that Iraq started the war. We too are putting forward a very clear point: What we are saying is that if you accept that Iraq began the war, then, you should accept, on the basis of Iraq being the aggressor, that a tribunal should be formed.

This is something that I said in that (?hall) when I invited the ambassadors of the world's countries, all those who were there, and I sent out a message from there to the countries of the world and world forums: What we are saying is that a tribunal should be set up on the basis of Saddam being the aggressor.

Discussion should not revolve around the question of who is the aggressor, since this is already very clear. If they continue the discussion on this line then we shall be delayed for some time over this question and it is precisely their [international quarters] wish that we should calm down while [words indistinct] they take time over the issue of who was the aggressor and go in search of documents and witnesses and such things. When they accept [that Saddam is the aggressor] — after all, what did they do with Hitler? We ask these European countries: What did you do with Hitler? It is something resembling that after all, and nothing more. Hitler began a war, except that it turned into a world war and this war with Iraq is limited to the region — therefore the same thing should be done to Saddam. Therefore our logic is not that we should say right now that Saddam should first, definitely fall from power, and then a tribunal be set up; what we are saying is that a tribunal should be set up on the basis of bringing the aggressor, who is Saddam, to trial. If a tribunal is set up with members whom we approve of, then we shall accept it. Just as we have said on so many occasions and say once again. But the assumption must be that which everyone knows from the bottom of their hearts, and that the tribunal will be the (?basis in which discussion will take place).

[Question] You referred to Hitler. I saw it being argued somewhere that Hitler differs from Saddam, and the reason they were giving was that Hitler's war was a world war — your war is a regional one — and they argued that Hitler had the motivation of wanting to advance an idea in the world. A nationalistic Fascism which was a danger to the whole world. And these people say that Hitler's case is not at all comparable with Iran's case and how can you compare the two? Could you please explain this point further?

[Answer] [words indistinct] Whether there was a world war or regional war, the nature of the case is not different in that Saddam is also an aggressor. If Hitler was after an idea, well, in the case of Saddam it is even worse — what was Saddam after? What reason do they give for their aggression? Was it not because they wanted to (?spread) a revolution; that they wanted to fragment a country; that they wanted to take over by force the territory of another country — is this crime any less than the importance of an idea. Surely this is worse. The nature of what Saddam did — he too had an idea of his own, perhaps similar to Hitler, except that this war is regional. He thought that if he succeeded in Iran, he would succeed to the shah's place in the Persian Gulf, in addition to securing his place within Arab countries, and would become the (?leader) of the region. These ideas are not too different from the idea of Hitler. Even if that were not so, still the aggressor must be put on trial.

[Question] There is a question of continuing the war — about which much has already been spoken — as mentioned by Mr Hemmati [not further identified]. I would like to discuss the same topic from another point of view: While our combatants were fighting on our own territory we could easily justify continuation of the war. However, following our penetration into Iraqi territory, and noting the much exaggerated ambiguities by the foreign sources, this issue requires more elaboration and analysis. With your kind permission, the people of the world — having been given the propaganda as disseminated — have this question:

What sort of justification have we to continue the war? We could state in the past our intention of ousting the aggressor from our territory, but how do we justify ourselves now?

[Answer] With regard to our stated demands, these may not be achieved without entering Iraqi territory. If we stay within our own borders and sit waiting for the aggressor to be tried, for retribution to be paid, and so on before we are allowed to enter Iraqi territory, (?this will not scare anybody). At one time we said we were fighting to throw these people out of our territory, but this was not the goal. We never limited ourselves. We said we would throw them out and also realize our rights. In order to realize our rights we have had to enter Iraqi territory and advance as far as necessary. As we have stated, we will go even as far as Baghdad, if needed. There is no other way but this. If our points of view about ending the war without trial for the aggressor and realization of our rights are to be ignored then, entering Iraqi territory is an apparent necessary. We must do so.

[Question] Do you not think there will come a day when we shall decide to annex the whole of Iraqi territory merely on the pretext that these people do not reognize our rights for us and that we have not been given our rights?

[Answer] No! There never will be any question of annexation. We will, as statements show, allow the Iraqi nation to establish their desired government at a time when we may have the upper hand there — and obviously by then the Ba'th Party will have been toppled and the government will have fallen. Our requirements then, will be partially met and there will never be any need for talking about annexation.

[Question] Would you then, in this connection, kindly announce again our requirements for ending the war? Particularly since these have been discussed in many circles.

[Answer] We have always said that trial of the aggressor and his punishment by a just court, reimbursement for our wasted and spoiled rights, as well as the return of Iraqi refugees to their (?country are our conditions).

[Question] As you have said, we will return and allow the Iraqis to set up their own government when the Ba'th Party falls. However, speaking hypothetically, if there was to be a coup in Iraq and Saddam fell, would the Islamic Republic make any adjustments to its conditions if the opponents of the Ba'thists came to power and would it accept the new situation? This question has been discussed, particularly following the rumors — or rather the news filtering in — that a coup had been neutralized sometime before. There may be more coup attempts in the future, given the worsening situation of the Iraqi regime. We would be very pleased to hear your response to this.

[Answer] This is based on the presumption of Saddam being ousted by others following a coup, or by other means. One of our most important conditions has been that the Ba'th Party should not rule over Iraq. In such a situation there is no need for trials. Therefore, the question of the damage done to us remains, and we have already commented on this. If there comes a government in Iraq that is truely popular and of the people, with an Islamic rule such as Iran's — as we know, the majority or almost all of the Iraqi people are Muslims — obviously we will not apply pressure to obtain financial settlement. If an Islamic government is established, we will cooperate with their officials and arrange bilateral cooperation and resolve any differences of (?view). Now, if a government is established in Iraq that may not be to our wishes, say a government that (?may not accept responsibility) for the war, then all our conditions such as retribution, return of Iraqi refugees, and others must be satisfied.

[Question] In connection with the same question, if a government appears — say with the help of the United States — following a coup, and shows itself to be interested in starting relations, and pose as a national government; how would you comment on this matter?

[Answer] In any situation, we do not have the duty to wage war against governments in Iraq that may not have any responsibility for the war and may happen to be not to our liking. [passage omitted] Any government in Iraq of this sort must grant us our rights and we will not have any hostility toward them as long as they do not wage war against us.

[Question] (?So thereafter) what kind of conditions (?will prevail)?

[Answer] The most important condition is that of (?security). It is then that the international bodies can decide [word indistinct] how the two countries may reach (?agreements).

[Question] With permission, may I ask a question? Following the victory by the Islamic forces in [word indistinct] operations, the taking of Al-Faw and the Karbala operations and in the wake of operations to (?retake) Mehran, a series of activities began between [words indistinct] and the Iraqi regime and various meetings [words indistinct] has caused the most tense [words indistinct] and discord among the supporters of Iraq. That was when the Iraqi regime fell to its lowest and (?most abject) situation. Following the two operations in Al-Faw and (?Mehran) establishing fast footholds [words indistinct], could you, as the spokesman of the Supreme Defense Council and representative of the imam to that council, tell us when is the best time for [words indistinct]?

[Answer] It is the best option for them if we [words indistinct]. That is to say, we leave the war effort just as they felt defeat descending upon them. It is our best move to increase our pressure and reach our goals. What is the difference between ending the war now or 5 years ago? Saddam will breathe a sigh of relief and feel proud in saying that the Iranians have been

checked and that they could not cross or defend [word indistinct]. Yes, it is a suitable opportunity to apply more pressure to gain our rights.

[Question] One of the threats we have felt which has caused us to pursue the war is in uprooting the source of aggression in the region in order to establish a stable peace. What kind of stable peace is this? And would there be no activity in the region? Is there any guarantee that following the fall of the Iraqi regime, there would be stable peace in the region?

[Answer] We have not claimed anything from anybody. We have not coveted the territory of our neighbors. We have proved that anyone who commits aggression against us has bad results. This was shown at the start of our victories. Those countries that have taken our side are now admitting that [words indistinct] Iran has become the regional superpower. They understood that their dream of raising Iran to the supreme power in the region by letting it have the most powerful army there has been carried out by independent Iran. The world has accepted that we are the most powerful force in the region. Now, if we are not (?after) aggression or (?supremacy) there will be no party ready to throw itself into trouble, as Iraq did. We are able to (?defend) [words indistinct] all these countries. This is the real cause of lasting peace and if carried out there will be no other reason to continue the (?war).

[Question] What is the long term view of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the war? In other words, how can the regional states, our neighbors and (?Iraq), hope for goodneighborliness between Iraq and Iran's governments? [passage omitted] Another question is that of the decision by the Islamic Republic of Iran to stabilize peace and [words indistinct]

[Answer] Nobody will sign a document declaring what will not be done. Our past history shows that we have not favored adventurism given the excuses provided by the littoral states of the Persian Gulf on many occasions by open aid to Iraq — they sell oil on Iraq's behalf, provide funds, avail their roads and ports and perhaps even their airspace to Iraq for military purposes — knowing that they will receive little or no punishment. We have no intention to expand the war and our past history shows this. They must not think that Iran will not wage war against them because of its war with Iraq. This is not a correct conclusion since all of these states down here are only as big as one or two provinces in Iraq. Had we favored aggression or expansion of the war, we could presume that Iraq has another army. It could not be more than that. Further, all their installations are within the range of our weapons. They have glass castles by the seashores that will be shattered if their desalinization plants are damaged. Their shores are covered by oil pipelines full of inflammable material, and their ships are continuing to pass near our naval vessels. We can hit their vessels from our shores. But, we have shown them that we are patient and do not intend to (?cause damage) or act aggressively against them. Furthermore, we are all Muslims and Muslims do not begin wars against Muslims. We have been forced into this war and we are obliged to follow its course. We have no other way out. We would have ended the war if we could have found a way. [passage omitted] It seems that they are obeying somebody or are deceived or forced. Therefore, if there is a verbal guarantee we have been saying it and if it is an active guarantee, our past history has already shown it.

[Question] The present situation is the best for attack, that is in terms of military conditions. Also, a number of these countries are openly assisting Iraq in this connection.

[Answer] You have understood well, as I said, we could take the Bubiyan Islands allowing control over roads by which Iraq is heavily supplied, if we wanted to act aggressively. Kuwait is a small country and we are very close to Bubiyan, separated by Khur 'Abd Allah, and we would not find capturing Bubiyan difficult having taken Al-Faw. We are conscious of these issues and we do not enter there and have not declared war against them [word indistinct].

[Question] How long will the political considerations last? It has been proved that these countries are aiding Iraq and by various means they have been urged to refrain from that but they heed no calls. What is the stand adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in this respect? What will it do if they persevere and expand their activities?

[Answer] We will tolerate them as long as we can but, logically speaking, if they push us too far we will no longer tolerate it — the people and logic will allow us. [passage omitted]

[Question] There is a question, that is, people of the region are in some doubt as to the games that superpowers are playing, namely the United States and the USSR, in relation to the war with Iraq. The point is that they all say openly that the war should not continue; the war should be ended; the continuation of the war is harmful and creates tension and so forth. On the other hand, it is these same people who are the chief supporters of Saddam. They supply forces and arms and assist Iraq through propaganda and politics. Please tell us what all this is about and how is it that on the one hand they advocate an end to the war in terms of their propaganda, and on the other they follow an opposite direction toward Muslims by fanning the flames of this war. In practice they also adopt contradictory policies in that at one point they say they are neutral and at another they say the war should end because it is in their interests for the war to end. Could you please clarify this issue so that the people of the region may understand it better.

[Answer] To put it in a nutshell — these people, even if they are not afraid of our victory, want the war. That is, in reality, economic powers wish this war to continue on so that we will not be victorious. If Iraq becomes victorious then they have nothing further to say since this was the aim they themselves had (?planned). And if neither Iraq nor Iran is victorious, this is what they want since it is clearly in their interest. In the first place, their weapons are being used so rapidly and thereby being tested. The testing of weapons is the most important thing to them. Secondly, the power of Muslims is being eroded. Two countries whose people could constitute formidable forces in the region are fighting each other. Also, things like cutting the price of oil and other such deeds are also to their benefit. If Iraq and Iran were together in partnership then who would have dared to carry out this plot? None of the oil-producing countries to the south of Iran

would dare to carry out any plots if we were united with the Iraqis — they could not if such a condition existed.

In addition, the problem of Israel is also being more or less solved for them because of the war. They have scared the Rabs, made them fear Iran by magnifying the issue and presenting it as a danger to them. Since the Arab countries are primarily dependent, like Egypt, Morocco, other countries, Jordan and even the Palestine Liberation Organization, (?under these circumstances) the big powers are greatly benefitting from this war.

There is, however, only one thing that (?will have an impact on) them and that is Iranian victory. They have tackled this problem for themselves in this way: they are strengthening Iraq against us; giving it more modern weapons to compensate for its weakness. It is obvious that they have made a clear choice and that is that the war should remain and continue here, or that the situation remain between neither a real peace nor war and one where sedition continues in the region. Both situations suit them and the best form that it could take for them is a victory for Iraq since Iraq is in a state of despondency. The worst form it could take is a victory for Iran, so they are trying to prevent this outcome. We, in turn, must do something to bring about victory just as (?we succeeded) with the revolution.

[Question] As you are aware, Iraq has, in this war, made use of chemical weapons over and over again to the point that international organizations have also admitted to this. The majority of the people in the world also know that Iraq has deployed these chemical weapons in violation of all international regulations. The question is: Does the Islamic Republic of Iran have the facilities to retaliate in kind or not and if it has, why did we retaliate in kind in the past in the sense that when they hit us with missiles we also hit them with missiles and when they came with their aircraft we did the same. Why have we not, in the case of chemical weapons not retaliated in kind up to now? Does the potential exist or not?

[Answer] In those early days they claimed that they had certain facilities that we did not have. But since we did have the technology for this, we took some measures and now we can retaliate in kind to the same level as Iraq. Of course this is a very anti-humanitarian weapon and (?once employed it would not stop at the level that it is being used now). It is all too true to say that it could totally destroy something, say perhaps totally destroy the waters of a region or (?cripple) and injure people. In short, it could leave behind much disaster and have adverse effects on families and houses. What we are trying to do is to be in control and stand on our own feet but it appears that if in the future, in future programs they make use of [words indistinct] then we will be obliged to do the same.

[Question] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, you referred in your remarks to our armament technology. The question which is being discussed — and they have really worked on it and blown it up especially in foreign radio broadcasts, and this is even quoted from the (?officials) of the Zionist regime and the VOA and even top level officials of the U.S. State Department — is the farcical notion that Iran is purchasing weapons from Israel. The reasoning for them saying this in this connection is [words indistinct] that Iran has U.S. equipment, U.S. weapons, and needs to supply them and therefore goes and buys them from Israel. I wanted to ask you to give a convincing explanation to this question in your capacity as the spokesman of the Supreme Defense Council, and a person who would know about this. What is this all about and what is the motivation behind this kind of farce? Please let us know whether this is really true or not so that we can tell everyone about the intentions behind this.

[Answer] [Passage indistinct] (?No one) really believes that we purchase weapons from Israel or that Israel is at all prepared to sell us weapons. This war was brought about because Iran turned into a threat to Israel. For this very reason and the fact that [words indistinct] they are scared to arm the Arab world in case these arms and weapons may one day be turned toward Israel — in spite of this problem they are giving advanced weapons to Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and other countries and this is because they consider Iran to be a serious danger to Israel, that is Iran and Islam. It is Islam that will not tolerate Israel as a state [words indistinct], and it is a real joke that the Israelis, whenever they want us to acquire a bad reputation, they themselves claim that we have bought weapons from them.

That is, they have accepted deep down in their hearts that they have such a bad name that they think they can give us a bad name with this false piece of news. Radio Israel and the programs of Israel are all too clear about this problem. Lebanon is a witness to this problem. The U.S. and Israel know that if it were not for our presence in Lebanon, if it were not for (?our friends), they would have solved the problem of Lebanon many times over to the benefit of Israel. In spite of our involvement with the war, it is we who have mainly kept the struggle against Israel in Lebanon alive.

It was our supporters who drove the [word indistinct] and Israelis out of southern Lebanon. They themselves know this and the world knows it too. [words indistinct]. The truth is that we are so opposed to the system and goals of Israel that when the Islamic Republic came into power, we shunned Israel to such an extent that many of the contracts that Israel had made with the shah are owed to us and we have lost them [passage indistinct]. There is no difference in this respect between [word indistinct] and Israel. In this respect when the Americans have kept the [word indistinct] spare parts and even the soldier's uniforms that Iran had bought from the United States at the time of the shah's rule, they have kept these in their warehouses in the United States and they remain there; they will not deliver them to us. [Words indistinct] so (?how will they agree) to even provide us with one bullet? The point is that we, too, will not accept it. If ever a situation arose that would force us to obtain even one bullet from Israel then we would rather never see that day since that would be very dangerous. We consider Israel to be illegitimate to such an extent that getting even slightly close to Israel would upset the principles upon which our country has been built.

But in response to what you said about where we get our weapons since what we have are U.S.-made weapons, yes it is true that a large part of our weaponry, especially those advanced weapons such as aircraft, radars, and surface-to-air missiles, are U.S.-made. But firstly, Iran had good storehouses for spare parts and we were careful with these from the start of war. Secondly, we began to make and build spare parts and really, at present, we

are securing for ourselves thousands of spare parts. This has been a great achievement, [words indistinct], but we are building so many spare parts that we hope that later we will eventually be able to manufacture the weapons. We have made much progress. Thirdly, in the world, the situation among the Westerners is such that they can easily obtain these weapons from dealers. As to NATO's weapons [words indistinct]; there are also the arms warehouses of world arms dealers who [words indistinct] deliver arms to us quite frequently.

[Question] Is this not more expensive?

[Answer] In certain cases it is more expensive and in others cheaper. We bought five or six F-5's, that is F-5 aircraft, at half the price that the Americans had sold them to Iran at the time of the shah. Even now we have some pieces and parts we are buying that are cheaper than their American (?counterparts) being (?produced) by them now. The manufacture of immitation spare parts is going on a lot in the world. The warehouses of the world's arms dealers are full and they look out for customers who can pay them in cash. [Words indistinct] some countries have weapons and arms left on their hands and they are not allowed to sell and (?so they sell illicitely) to a third party. We (?have procured a lot of arms through these means) and we will continue to do so, I am sure, [words indistinct]. Moreover, the main effort in our war is the war being waged in the fields. This does not require U.S.-made arms so much; it is the ground war and our strength lies in our ground war. We are on the defensive in so far as the air battle is concerned [words indistinct]. In the ground battles we have the upper hand [passage indistinct]. We have a large (?quantity) of eastern weapons captured from the Iraqis [passage indistinct]. Our repair work is very highly rated. [words indistinct]

[Question] You said that the weapons bought in the open market were somewhat limited in their role during operations. Are these worth much particularly since the money will indirectly end up in U.S. hands? Could you comment on this choice of two options as the most desirable and how much one can ignore this market?

[Answer] We cannot [words indistinct]. Our F-14 aircraft are [word indistinct] and out of the 80 we started with, 74 or 75 remain. These are (?interceptor) aircraft and have long-range (?radars) to 1,000 km distance. We cannot replace these. Our missiles, (?equipping) sensitive areas, are among the best missiles made in the United States and among the best defensive missiles in the world. We have stocks of these missiles that will enable us to fight another 10 years to empty the stores. We must maintain launch platforms and this requires parts. The U.S. radars are of good quality. [Words indistinct] we have the duty of keeping them. New weapons require new cadres, training, time, and expensive logistics. We have all these but need parts. Unfortunately, the money goes to the United States and this is a loss but we cannot do otherwise. The main suppliers of the world are from the United States, France, the UK, the USSR and all the same sort.

[Question] Thank you for your time, considering your problems. As the last question I refer to the regional states you already spoke about. What can they do to assist in ending the war?

[Answer] We do not need their help but they should stop assisting Iraq. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are producing oil from the disputed areas on behalf of Iraq. This is said to amount to about 300,000 barrels per day or more. [passage omitted] They have paid so much money, as loans or grants, to Iraq that their own deposits are endangered. They sell underpriced oil, wrecking the oil market, to support Iraq. Their media are saturated with defense of the Ba'th Party. They should stop these and act as Turkey, Pakistan, and the PDRY. Even Sultan Qabus is better than them. The war will come to an end and we have nothing to say.

[Question] I ask you to give a message for the Muslim people of the region. What do you expect of them as an official of the Islamic Republic of Iran and a world-praised figure?

[Answer] We ask the Muslim people of the region to see who is defending Islam. If they are Arabs they have a duty against Israel. Who is the revolutionary enemy of Israel? If they belong to the world then Iran can be useful to their world. We can help the Persian Gulf littoral states. We can help them to (?produce) their oil independently. We can provide their daily needs, now being imported from Europe and from a long way away, at their doorstep, at reasonable prices. We can defend them against bullying. Iraq used to demand extortion by organizing terrorist organizations and scaring them. The people must open their eyes and see how their money is being spent by their government. [passage omitted] The small nation of Kuwait is ready to waste tens of billions of dollars on Iraqi aggressions. Saudi Arabia is trying to distort facts to help the Ba'th Party which was denounced as infidel. Our Hajj pilgrims are seen in Mecca. They defend all places. We make good friends of the nations. Let their governments not repress them. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i on Purpose of Government Week

LD282221 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 28 Aug 86

[Text] In connection with Government Week, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the republic, took part in a live interview in the news program of the first network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Referring to the coinciding of the end of Government Week with the martyrdom anniversary of two great and illustrious martyrs, Raja'i and Bahonar, who gave up their lives along the path of the victory of the revolution and bringing into fruition its aims, Khamene'i alluded to this week as one of the government's sacrifices along the path of the revolution.

In another part of this interview the president of the republic added: During the week the responsible officials and people should be enabled to assess the activities of the government and thereby increasingly expand ties of sentiment between the government and people. He added: During this week the people should endeavor to feel some affection for their government. The responsible officials, too, should strive, through underlining their original task which is tantamount to affection and kindliness towards the people, towards bringing the people closer to share in the tasks, responsibilities and decisions.

Musavi Responds to Listeners' Questions

LD282257 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 28 Aug 86

[Text] In connection with Government Week, Prime Minister Musavi, participating in the radio program "Together With the People -- In Step With the Authorities," responded to questions put to him by the people throughout the country via the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In response to a question by a listener on whether the reduction in the world price of oil would affect the payment of salaries and the privileges of government employees, the prime minister said: In accordance with the policies adopted by the cabinet, the utmost efforts are being made to reduce the difficulties of government employees so that reduction in the price of oil will not have any effect on their salaries and privileges. Of course, this does not mean that the government will increase the salaries and privileges of government employees — a fact that would affect the course of inflation — but rather the government's policy is so far as possible not to affect the reduction of income and monies received by government employees.

In connection with the imposed war and the date of carrying out the great offensive by Islam's combatants against the Zionist regime, the prime minister said that the Islamic forces' vast and extensive offensive is not all that far away and that our combatants on all the fronts enjoy complete readiness for carrying out a vast offensive against the positions of the Iraqi forces.

Mr Musavi called on the various strata of the people at all times and in all circumstances to devote their entire strength to the war.

The prime minister referred to the government's policy on seeking the people's participation in government affairs as carrying out the behest of the imam of the Islamic nation and said: The government is not defending trade, but is rather defending production. [as heard] He added: If the people's participation in the affairs becomes tantamount to participation in interference by a small group, then the government will not accept this.

Mr Musavi also divided the bazaar merchants into two groups and said that most of them constitute a pious and self-sacrificing segment that have played a big role in the victory of the Islamic revolution. He censured the few capitalists, who in the country's war situation are engaging in amassing gold. He referred to them as constituting a strata who are constantly hiding behind the pious bazaar merchants.

The prime minister stressed that any particular interpretation of parts of the speeches of the imam of the Islamic nation in connection with the people's participation in the various tasks constitutes a form of misrepresentation. The pious bazaar forces who are filling the mosques, though at times they may not share the same line of thought with the government, have always been the friends of the government. In this program, through live radio contacts established with the Voice and Vision centers in a number of large cities in the country, the prime minister also replied to questions put to him by the people of these cities.

He also expressed the hope that with victory over all the plots hatched and being hatched by the enemies of the Islamic revolution, all difficulties will soon be behind us.

Belgian Diplomat Expelled From Iran

LD281539 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 28 Aug 86

[Text], Aug. 28, IRNA — An informed source at the Iranian Foreign Ministry Thursday confirmed expulsion of the first secretary of the Belgian Embassy in Tehran, Jan Mutton.

The official said that Mutton was expelled from Iran due to his involvement in activities contrary to diplomatic regulations. He left Tehran for his country some time ago.

Foreign Ministry Declares 'Solidarity' With Libya

LD281801 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Aug 86

[Text] Foreign Ministry spokesman Sarmadi announced in connection with the U.S. authorities' recent threats against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah: The White House in Washington has placed at the top of its aggressive plans the repression of liberation-seeking nations and anti-imperialist movements. The United States has once again threatened the fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah with military intervention on a baseless and illusory pretext. The United States — itself a supporter of professional terrorists and a propagator of state terrorism — mistakenly presumes that by threats and crimes it can weaken the will of rising nations defending their freedom and independence. The U.S. aggressors, despondent following their last aggression against the revolutionary country of Libya, and finding that that country remains steadfast in defending its stands, once again have resorted to baseless and illusory pretexts.

The United States must realize that any threat and act of aggression against Libya will be considered an act of aggression and threat against the world of Islam and the nonaligned countries, and will lead to nothing but [here follows unexplained 6-second break in transmission] agitation of the Muslim nations. The Islamic Republic of Iran [here follows unexplained 3-second break in transmission] strongly condemns the U.S. [word indistinct] against Libya uttered in the speeches of that country's officials and realized by its military maneuvers, and declares its solidarity with the Libyan nation, government, and leadership against the U.S. threats.

Shim'on Peres Visit to Cameroon Condemned

LD281637 Tehran IRNA in English 1557 GMT 28 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA — The Iranian Foreign Ministry Thursday condemned recent visit of the Zionist regime's prime minister, Shim'on Peres, to Cameroon, and called on the Third World countries, especially those in Africa, "not to let this cancerous tumor to grow".

In a statement released here, the foreign ministry stressed that the Zionist regime, due to the hideous crimes it committed in the Middle East, was suffering a political isolation.

"Unfortunately", the statement added "the government of Cameroon, irrespective of the aspirations of freedom-seeking people and resolutions of international organizations, has established ties with the Zionist regime and received its prime minister."

Extensive relations between the Zionist regime and the racist South African regime was an indication of the former's hostility with the people of Africa, therefore, establishment of ties with this regime was a treason against all nations, African people in particular, the statement said.

It called on international organizations, especially the current meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, to halt materialization of the Zionist regime's inhuman objectives.

PRC Cooperation on Oil Prices Sought

LD281235 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 28 Aug 86

[Political review: "Mr Aqazadeh's trip to China"]

[Text] Yesterday, Petroleum Oil Minister Aqazadeh left for Beijing for talks to coordinate with and gain the cooperation of China regarding Iran's proposed plan at the latest OPEC session.

Considering the utilization of China's oil resources over the past few years, coordination with China on OPEC's decision to reduce oil production in order to increase its price is considered a positive move by the Islamic Republic of Iran toward implementing the approved plan.

Before going on this trip, our country's petroleum minister paid a successful visit to Moscow to strengthen Iran's proposed plan. The main achievement of Mr Aqazadeh's trip to the Soviet Union was securing that country's agreement to cut its daily oil exports to Western Europe by 100,000 barrels.

After this trip our country's petroleum minister will travel to a number of oil exporting countries in Africa and the Far East.

Securing the agreement of non-OPEC countries regarding the plan recently approved by that organiziation will be the first step toward higher prices. Iran's diplomatic efforts can make this step more realistic and lessen the influence of world arrogance on oil prices.

At present, the oil market shows that prices have gone up compared with last month, that is before Iran's proposal at the latest OPEC session. Therefore, it seems that with the implementation of Iran's plan and with the cooperation of non-OPEC countries, from 1 September the oil price will increase even further.

On the other hand, considering the fact that diplomatic and economic relations between Iran and China are at a suitable level, securing China's agreement to cooperate with Iran's proposed plan is not beyond expectations.

Oil, Gas Pipelines Discussed With Turkish Minister

NC290701 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Aug 86

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu, who is visiting our country, met with Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi yesterday afternoon. They studied the Iranian-Turkish commercial, economic, and industrial protocol; the construction of oil and gas pipelines between the two countries; land transportation problems; and the establishment of an Iran-Turkey-Pakistan telecommunications link.

It was announced during this meeting that the Islamic Republic of Iran can complete construction of the oil pipeline up to the Turkish border by the second half of 1988. Hopes were expressed that the Turkish officials too would announce when the Turkish oil pipeline up to the Iranian border will be completed.

In conclusion, the two sides said that they hoped that with the construction of the Iranian gas pipeline to Turkey and to Europe their relations would be further consolidated and that they would be regarded as competitors in gas exports at the European level.

Iraqi 'Plot' at Nonaligned Summit Condemned

LD281845 Tehran IRNA in English 1832 GMT 28 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug 28, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Ministry here Thursday condemned the Iraqi regime's measure in dispatching a delegation, disguised as diplomats, to the ongoing Harare session of Non-Aligned Movement, carrying a remarkable amount of arms.

In a statement, the Iranian Foreign Ministry appreciated efforts of the Zimbabwean Government for neutralizing the plot and warned them to carefully control activities of the Iraqi delegation.

The statement also called for the suit of the above-mentioned terrorists through legal channels. It stressed that by taking this terrorist measure, the Iraqi regime once again proved its criminal nature to the world.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,577

LD281638 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 28 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug 28, IRNA — The Iranian Navy intercepted three foreign commercial ships in the area of Hormuz Strait Wednesday, but allowed them to continue their voyage as they were not carrying any war-related item for Iraq, said a military communique Thursday.

The 2,577th communique of the Joint Staff command of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces also added that the Iranian

forces, checking enemy movements, inflicted considerable losses and damage upon the Iraqi troops during Wednesday and Thursday.

In these operations, some Iraqi soldiers were killed when their positions were hit by the fire of the Islamic combatants which destroyed at least four group bunkers, one munitions depot, and a lookout post in the central sector of the battle fronts.

The Iranian defenders, directing their fire at Iraqi strongholds and supply routes in the northwestern theatre, halted enemy engineering activities in the Panjwin region, said the communique.

Fire exchanges continued in the southern fronts, raging heavier in the Talaiyeh, Shalacheh, and Zayd areas during the aforementioned period.

Artillery Fire on Iraqi Navy

LD281800 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 28 Aug 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Aug. 28, IRNA — Fire of the artillery units of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) checked movements of Iraqi naval vessels in Khur Shaytaniyeh, southern fronts, Wednesday night.

A report reaching here from the "Val Fajr-8" theatre, said that some Iraqi patrol boats attempted to reach the naval patrols ofthe Islamic combatants but were severely countered by the revolutionary guards' naval forces and forced to flee.

The report added that the Al-'Ummayah and Al-Bakr oil platforms, southern Iraq, were subjected to heavy fire of the Islamic forces which set ablaze a part of enemy communications and lookout installations over the past 24 hours.

Also, during the same period, at least 17 Iraqi soldiers were killed as the Iranian forces destroyed three group bunkers, three engineering vehicles, a machine gun position, and two watch posts in the Sibeh region, west of the Arvand River.